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maintenance must be planned for, systematically organized and promoted.

Instruments for such promotion are at hand. There are our consular officers, the chambers of commerce, the International Chamber of Commerce, and, by no means the least, the satisfied customers of long standing. We look with a degree of suspicion upon the multiplicity of organizations; the need just now would seem rather to be the utilization of existing agencies. But the work must be positive. Indeed, it may be necessary to set up machinery for the arbitration of international trade disputes. The main thing is to get together, consult, diagnose, and drain the wounds.

### THE BLUSH OF PATRIOTISM

**P**ATRIOTISM, real patriotism, is no mere refuge for scoundrels, in spite of rather high authority to the contrary. That which we called patriotism during the war was, in the main, a beautiful thing. Love, service, and sacrifice—three pillars of the Christian ethic—supported the hopes and energies of peoples everywhere. Tragedy and the fear of greater tragedy, idealisms with their ecstacies, made us a more homogeneous people than we had been for a generation. There was an exaltation and a united purpose in our midst distinctly American. It was for the most part a glorious thing.

We now know, however, that it was not all glorious. Discussion of the bill making appropriations for the War Department for the current fiscal year has brought into the light activities of the war period which bring nothing but a blush to the cheek of patriotism. A brief survey of the work accomplished in auditing war contracts by the Finance Division of the War Department reveals that nearly two millions of dollars have been actually recovered in money and property or by deduction from claims awarded. Contractors have been found to be in debt to the government. Nearly four and a half millions of dollars are involved in charges against contractors, which charges are now before the Department of Justice or the General Accounting Office for action. Over \$25,500,000 are in process of collection or reinvestigation.

A contract was made by a bureau of the War Department for the disposal of a very large quantity of surplus war material. An audit of this contract has indicated that the contractor has underpaid the government in the amount of nearly \$2,000,000. This case is in the hands of the Department of Justice.

Production contracts were made by a branch of the War Department with a large corporation for a certain class of war material. An audit of these contracts has demonstrated that this contractor has been paid about

\$9,600,000 for which no services were rendered or property delivered. This case is also in the hands of the Department of Justice.

There is a case of contracts with a corporation to which materials were supplied by the government and not accounted for by the corporation, either in articles delivered or materials otherwise returned to the government. This little oversight on the part of the contractor involves a matter of nearly \$1,500,000. This case is in the Department of Justice.

Again, a contractor had two contracts with the government, one of which provided that the contractor should be furnished government material, while the other contract provided that the contractor should furnish his own material. An audit of these contracts shows that the government material was used on both contracts. This involved a little matter of \$700,000.

There is another case of a contract for the sale of surplus war supplies. When shipments were made to government arsenals the government was to pay the freight. An audit reveals the fact that under this provision the government has paid approximately \$30,000 in freight to private manufacturers. Still more interesting, this same contract provided that the price to be paid for the material by the government was to be determined to a considerable extent by commercial sales during the period of the contract. The contractor furnished statements covering the amount of such sales, which statements were used as the basis upon which he made his payments to the government. When an audit of the contract was undertaken and the contractor was called upon to show the correctness of these figures, he stated that they were made without first-hand knowledge on his part and that he understood that the basic papers upon which these figures were based had been destroyed. The approximate amount involved here is \$2,200,000.

These are only samples of a patriotism used as a refuge for scoundrels. When Boswell attributed this remark to Samuel Johnson, our own war, known as the American Revolution, had not been fought. These are indications that the same attributes of the human spirit familiar to Dr. Johnson still survive.

In the presence of such discoveries it is an easy matter to become pessimistic. Because of such things there is a marked despair in the conversations and writings of the day. But they who despair fail to see the other side of the shield. It will be noted that all of these cases here referred to have been discovered. The conscience of the nation, expressed in this instance by the Auditing Division of the War Department, has discovered the offenders. Our government is prosecuting them under the law. Justice is at the job. Furthermore, patriotism, real patriotism, blushes in shame.

**A**N INTERNATIONAL HOUSE for the entertainment of foreigners studying in New York City is planned by the Intercollegiate Cosmopolitan Club of that place. It is proposed that men and women from every land who are studying in the colleges of America will be welcome to this common home. Harry E. Edmonds, executive secretary of the club, informs us that the new home will accommodate five hundred students with living rooms, assembly and social rooms, cafeteria, gymnasium, swimming pool, and reception rooms. The funds for the new building, which is to be erected on University Drive, opposite Grant's Tomb, have been contributed by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. We are informed that there were more than 1,400 students from seventy-five countries studying in forty-three higher institutions in the city of New York last year, and that the number is constantly increasing.

The Intercollegiate Cosmopolitan Club has for eleven years been promoting international understanding and good will by holding various kinds of gatherings. These include "national nights," with the music, manners, and customs of different nationalities; dinners in American homes; Sunday suppers at which prominent persons speak on timely topics to a cosmopolitan gathering. Of course, there are other social, educational, and religious meetings. It is most fortunate that such an institution is to be established under such circumstances in the metropolis of our nation. It occurs to us to suggest that a similar institution would meet a similar demand, render a similar service, perhaps on a larger scale, if located in the city of Washington. Many foreign students visit New York; all of them come to Washington.

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**C**AN IRELAND put her house in order? Both pessimists and optimists are attempting to answer. We are told that the Ulster border is becoming gradually worse. The Border Commission are not helping matters. Hostilities are rampant along both sides of the line. War is being waged. Refugees are fleeing. Trenches are being dug, bridges blown up.

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**O**NE of our magazines just struggling into being, speaking of the Washington Conference, voices its editorial opinions in such self-explanatory language as:

"A representative parliamentary body that knew its duty would decline to ratify the Ten Commandments if they came before it with the endorsement of the British, French, Japanese, and American delegates to the Washington Conference. . . . The formal treaties which are to be canvassed in the Senate are of no importance whatever; they are mere measures of convenience, and will be treated accordingly by the subscribing nations. Bluff they are, and unto bluff they will return."

We are not surprised to find elsewhere in the editorial columns of the same number of this periodical such soul-stirring utterances as the following:

"The simple fact is that all the proceedings connected with the making and administration of statutory law are deserving of contempt and are getting it; and the only way to redeem them from contempt is by changing their character. Mere abuse of jurymen and rodomontade about the Bolshevik spirit does not do this. If judges desire honest jury service from honest citizens, let them rather move towards making over our legislative and administrative system into something which honest citizens can respect."

When the "most profane man of our most profane State" found that all of his potatoes had rolled out over the broken tail-board of his wagon just as he had reached the top of the long hill, his only comment to his expectant onlookers was: "There ain't no language fit for such an occasion."

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**A**LANSON B. HOUGHTON, our newly appointed Ambassador to Germany, is striking an international note much needed by our hate-torn world. It is difficult to realize that the war is over. It should disturb us to find that we are still nourishing this hate. Our new Ambassador to Germany is right—"We cannot be happy as a nation if our fellow-citizens of German ancestry are unhappy and embittered." We may still proclaim Germany's guilt, but to continue our hatred of all things German is to nourish a moral injury more to ourselves than to the Germans. Ambassador Houghton is even more correct when he says, "Hatred serves no useful purpose." One of the traits in the character of the Atlantean Lincoln, a trait which makes him great in our eyes, was his freedom from malice toward the people of the South. The same is true of Grant. It's a fine pride in the man of the North that he nourishes no hatred for the man of the South. It is a similar source of self-gratulation that the man of the South has forgotten his hatreds of the man of the North. It is impossible to measure this hatred, either among ourselves or among our enemies of the war. We know that it exists. We know that it is unworthy. We know that it perpetuates the ills we long to get rid of.

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**T**HE BUREAU of the Interparliamentary Union is, fortunately, likely to receive from the United States Government \$4,000 as this year's contribution to the work of the Union. The annual sum heretofore has been \$2,000, with the exception of a short period when it was \$2,500. Encouragement that the amount this year is to be \$4,000 lies in the fact that the Departments of State and Justice appropriation bill, carrying the

item of \$2,000, has, upon the motion of Representative Burton, of Ohio, been amended to read \$4,000. The original item read: "For the contribution of the United States toward the maintenance of the Bureau of the Interparliamentary Union for the promotion of international arbitration at Brussels, Belgium, \$2,000." The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House have reported a bill, H. R. 10213, recommending that the amount for the Interparliamentary Union be \$4,000. In support of his proposed amendment and of the recommendation of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr. Burton pointed out that the Interparliamentary Union is of increasing importance; that there is a reliance on the United States for leadership in it; that it enables them to maintain a close touch with foreign countries; and that it is of especial importance in the promotion of good will. This action by the Congress will operate most beneficially in the legislatures of other lands; but, furthermore, it will encourage the work of the Interparliamentary Union throughout the world. It is another evidence of the fact that the United States is neither insular nor unmindful of the weal of other nations.

## THE GENOA CONFERENCE AND BRITAIN'S PART

By DAVID LLOYD-GEORGE

(Below is the text of the notable speech made by Mr. Lloyd-George in the House of Commons on April 3. It is reprinted through the courtesy of the New York Times.—THE EDITOR.)

PERHAPS the House will permit me to thank it for the very kindly indulgence it extended to me during the short period of enforced rest which I have been endeavoring to enjoy. (Laughter.) I am afraid I was pelted with crises during that period, but the House itself seems to have taken no part in that new form of popular entertainment.

The resolution which I have the honor to move is very much of the same character as the resolution which was moved before the Washington Conference; but it gives the public an opportunity of approving of the objects and purposes of and delegates to the Genoa Conference. It also affords the House an opportunity of disapproving of either one, or two, or three.

I have been informed in quarters where I get all information about myself—I mean the press—that this resolution is not the original resolution which I submitted to the judgment of my colleagues; that it is completely transformed, or, as it is called, revised. As a matter of fact, it is exactly the resolution which I suggested a fortnight ago, and my colleagues were good enough to accept in the very form in which I submitted it for their acceptance.

There are conflicting criticisms of this proposal arising from an infinite variety of amendments which have been tabled. Some suggest it is going too far. There

are more numerous critics who suggest that it does not go far enough. And probably they both agree that the particular delegation which is to go to Genoa is not the one which will meet acceptance from Parliament. (Hear, hear!) That shows I am a very fair interpreter of the criticisms of my political opponents.

*If the resolution is defeated for any reason, whether it is because the purpose of the conference is not acceptable, because the policy and principles which are laid down do not meet with the approval of the House, or because the House of Commons would prefer there should be another delegation to represent this country at Genoa, then it will be equivalent to a vote of no confidence in the government. (Opposition cheers.)*

### THE ISSUES INVOLVED

Why has the conference been summoned? The issues involved and principles and purposes are set forth in great detail in the Cannes papers, which have been circulated to the House and which members have had full opportunity of perusing. In fact, there is nothing I can say which would add to the information contained in these documents and I am not sure I can do anything to elucidate them.

The conference has been called to consider the problem of reconstruction of economic Europe, devastated, broken into fragments by the devastating agencies of war. Europe, the richest of all countries, the continent which possesses the largest amount of accumulated wealth and certainly the greatest machinery for production of wealth, and the largest aggregate of human means, with highly civilized needs and with highly civilized means of supplying those needs, and therefore Europe the best customer in the world and of the world, has been impoverished by the greatest destruction of capital that the world has ever witnessed.

If the European countries had gathered together their mobile wealth in one pyramid and set it on fire, the result could hardly have been more complete, as far as the capital wealth of Europe is concerned. International trade has been disorganized through and through, the recognized medium of commerce, exchange based on currency, has become almost unworkable. Vast areas upon which Europe had hitherto depended for a large proportion of its food supplies and its raw materials are completely destroyed for all purposes of commerce.

### NEW ARTIFICIAL RESTRICTIONS

*The nations, instead of co-operating to restore it, are broken up by suspicions and are creating difficulties and new artificial restrictions. Great armies are ready to march, and the nations already overburdened with taxation are having to bear additional taxation which the maintenance of these huge armies, to avoid suspected dangers, has rendered necessary.*

Genoa has been summoned to examine the best method of restoring order out of this welter and recovering prosperity out of this desolation.

The purposes are very fully set forth in this document. It is the press notice—if the honorable members would do me the kindness, if they have the papers with them, of just looking at the first notice which was issued officially by the conference, which was a story carefully prepared by the ministers and experts; every word of it